

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 29, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 71 has been added. Claims 20-71 are pending in this application, with claims 20, 57, and 68 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed April 29, 2003, claims 68-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,803,410 (Hwang).

Claims 20-67 are allowed.

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for spreading a treating agent onto a moving web. The present invention comprises a nozzle plate which is thin and is designed to feed jets of treating agent onto the moving surface. As disclosed on page 6, lines 1-4, the nozzle is designed to produce jets which are not dispersed into a spray so that the treating agent attaches well to the surface it hits, and permeates the air layer carried by the moving web.

Independent claim 68 recites a plate in an apparatus for spreading a treating agent onto a moving surface, the plate being a nozzle plate, wherein the apparatus includes means for directing said treating agent from the feeding chamber onto the moving surface, and wherein the means for directing the treating agent comprises a nozzle plate.

Hwang discloses a plate which comprises a skin 10 preferably built on an outer surface of an aircraft, watercraft, or other object designed to pass through a fluid. To reduce skin friction of a first fluid flow 42 on an outer surface 16 of the skin 10, a second fluid is blown through holes in the outer layer 30 of the skin 10 (see col. 3, lines 1-6 and 34-40). As stated in

col. 6, lines 15-20, and shown in Fig. 15, the air blown through holes 34 in the outer layer 30 creates a cushion of air 78 between the passing air flow of the first fluid flow 42 and the outer surface 16 of the skin. Since Hwang teaches that the outer layer 30 is configured to let air through the holes 34 to create a cushion of air 78 on the outer surface 16 of the skin 10, it is respectfully submitted that Hwang fails to disclose that the plate includes "means for directing said treating agent from said feeding chamber onto the moving surface", as recited in independent claim 68. In contrast, Hwang discloses only a means for creating an air cushion on the outer surface of the plate. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 68 is not anticipated by Hwang under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Independent claim 68 is also allowable over Hwang because the holes in the skin of Hwang are designed to create a cushion over an entire outer surface of the skin. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for "means for directing said treating agent from said feeding chamber onto the moving surface", as recited in independent claim 68. Instead of being blown onto a moving surface, Hwang discloses that the air blown out of the holes in the skin 10 stays on the outer surface of the skin to create an air cushion. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 68 is not obvious over Hwang under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Dependent claims 68-71, being dependent on independent claim 68, are allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 68.

New claim 71 recites that the treating agent includes at least one liquid and one solid component. Support for this limitation is found in the specification on page 5, lines 31-35. Hwang also fails to disclose that a plate which includes means for directing a treating agent having both solid and fluid component. In contrast, Hwang discloses that the plate is designed to

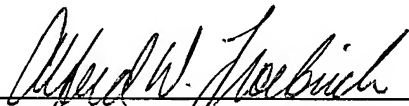
direct a flow of air through holes to create an air cushion. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 71 is not anticipated for these additional reasons.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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